

# Three new species of the subtribe Selenaspidina (Coccoidea: Diaspididae) from Africa.

by

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The subtribe Selenaspidina has been very ably revised by Mamet (1958). Its distinguishing characters are the acute, spur-like development of the third lobes and/or a marked lateral constriction of the prosoma. At hand are a number of very interesting forms which could not be identified and are therefore described and named below.

## *Neoselenaspidus triangularis* spec. nov., fig. 1

Scale of adult female dull-white, subcircular, flat, about 1.2 mm in diameter. Male scale not seen.

Mounted adult female pyriform, 0.7–1.0 mm in length; prosoma slightly but evenly sclerotized; antennal tubercle with a single hair; anterior cephalic margin smooth; thoracic tubercle absent in young specimens or present as a sclerotized invagination or lenticulate spot in older specimens. A weakly sclerotized boss is also present on the dorsosubmarginal area of the prothorax. Median and second lobes more or less equal in size, apically rounded, about as broad as long, with a preapical notch on the outer margins only; median lobes with a basal sclerosis projecting into the pygidium; third lobes small, pointed, length about equal to the basal width. Two narrow, apically fimbriate plates between the median and the median and second lobes; one narrow and two broad plates between the second and third lobes, and one or two rudimentary plates anterior to the third lobes. Dorsal pygidial ducts very variable in number, there being a submarginal band of 27–59 ducts on segments (v) to (vii) on each side of the pygidium. A dorsosubmarginal group of 5–11 ducts is also present on abdominal segment (iv), in one specimen these are absent on one side of the body. A single marginal macroduct occurs between the median lobes. Two sizes of microducts also occur on the marginal and ventrosubmarginal area of the prepygidial abdominal segments. Lateral basal apophyses of the pygidium weakly developed or absent. Anal opening oval, about as broad as the median lobes, situated at about the apical third of the pygidium. Perivular pores absent.

**MATERIAL EXAMINED.** Hottentotskloof, Ceres distr., Cape Province, 1.iii.1966 on *Othonna coronopifolia* Linn. (Compositae), J. Munting. Described from adult female holotype (H.C. 2109/2) and three adult female paratypes, all in the National Collection of Insects, Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria.

**NOTES.** This species differs from all the others currently referred to *Neoselenaspidus* in having short, triangular third lobes. The other species all have these lobes conspicuously longer than their basal width.

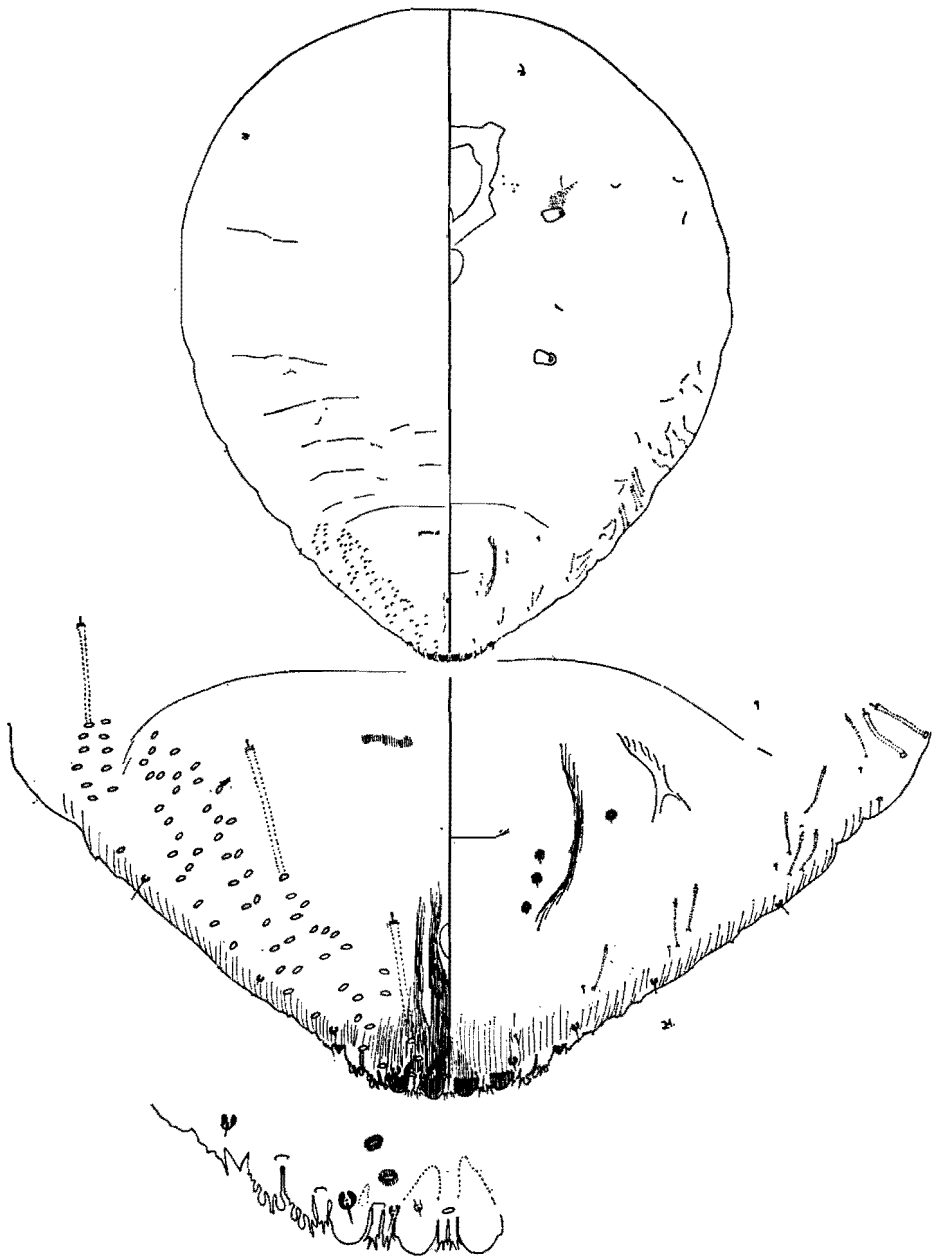


Fig. 1. *Neoselenaspidus triangularis* spec.nov.

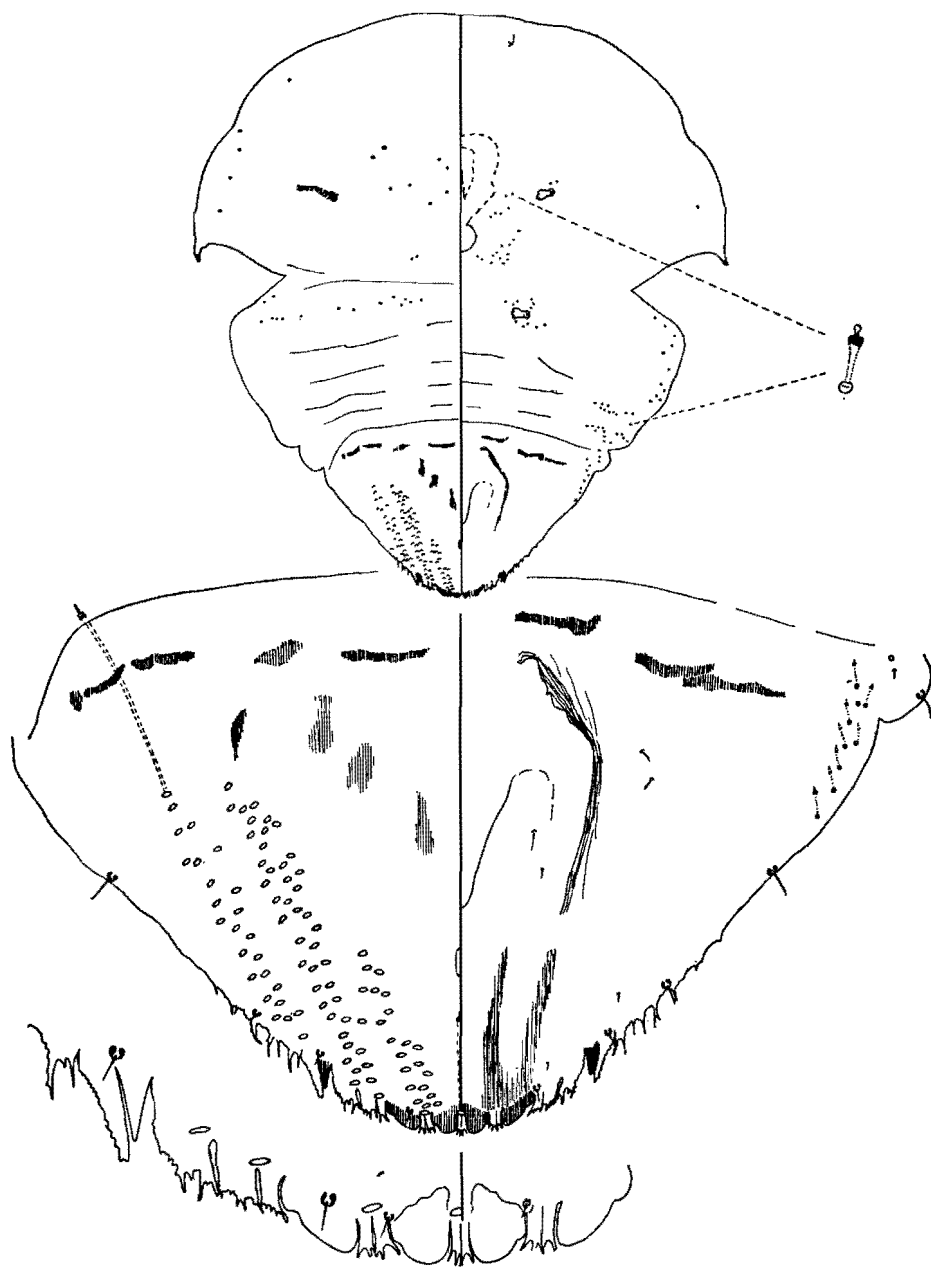


Fig. 2. *Selenaspidus eurylobus* spec. nov.

***Selenaspidus eurylobus* spec. nov., fig. 2**

Scale of adult female subcircular, about 1.2 mm in diameter; brownish-yellow in colour. Male puparium not seen.

Adult female with a shape typical of the genus; heavily sclerotized at maturity and about 1.8 mm long when mounted. Antennae with a single hair. Cephalic margin without any projections. Thoracic tubercle well developed, bluntly pointed. Pygidium with the usual three pairs of lobes: median lobes with a small basal sclerosis, apically rounded, with a small notch on the outer margins; second lobes conspicuously broader than long with a deep notch on the outer margins; third lobes well developed, spur-shaped. Dorsomarginal setae normal, on segments (vi) to (viii) shorter than lobes. Two plates of the narrow type present between median and two between median and second lobes; one narrow and two broad plates between second and third lobes, beyond third lobes only the mesal plate is well developed, others rudimentary. Dorsal pygidial ducts numerous, 93–129 occurring on each side and arranged in three oblique, longitudinal series; one duct marginally between median lobes. Dorsal and ventral prepygidial microducts distributed as in accompanying figure. Anal opening long (20–27  $\mu$ ), narrow, more or less parallel-sided, situated at about the apical one third of pygidium. Vulva lip-like; perivulvar pores absent.

**MATERIAL EXAMINED.** Nigeria, taken in quarantine at Hawaii, 3.12.1962, on seeds of a *Cycas* sp. (Cycadaceae), H.I. Rainwater. Described from young adult female holotype (H.C. 3415/1) and five adult female paratypes on four slides. The holotype will be deposited in the United States National Museum, Washington; one paratype in the collection of the California Department of Agriculture, Sacramento; one in the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris; the remainder in the National Collection of Insects, Pretoria.

**NOTES.** This species resembles *S. pumilus* Brain but may be distinguished from it in having broader, more squat second lobes, a narrower more or less parallel-sided anal opening, and a shorter sclerosis projecting from the base of the median lobes.

***Selenaspidus quadrilobus* spec. nov., fig. 3**

Scale of adult female subcircular, convex though sometimes flat, about 1.5 mm in diameter, chocolate brown in colour but with a pure white ventral skin which is conspicuous on the host plant when the scale is removed. Male scale oval, about 1.0 mm in length, slightly paler in colour than the female.

Adult female heavily sclerotized at maturity, having the typical *Selenaspidus* shape, and 0.8–1.1 mm in length when mounted. Antennae with a single curved hair. Cephalic margin without any projections. Anterior spiracles with more or less concentric rings as figured, these sometimes also associated with posterior spiracles but are not as well developed. Thoracic tubercles well developed or lenticulate. Pygidium with only two pairs of lobes, the usual spinose third lobes entirely absent; median lobes about as broad as long, parallel or slightly divergent, apically rounded but with a conspicuous subapical notch on both the mesal and outer margins, basal sclerosis present; second lobes also about as broad as long but with a notch on the outer margin only. Dorsal marginal setae of segment (viii) about twice as long as those on segments (v)–(vii). Two apically fimbriate plates present between median lobes and between median and second lobes; beyond the second lobes are another five or six plates of which the second

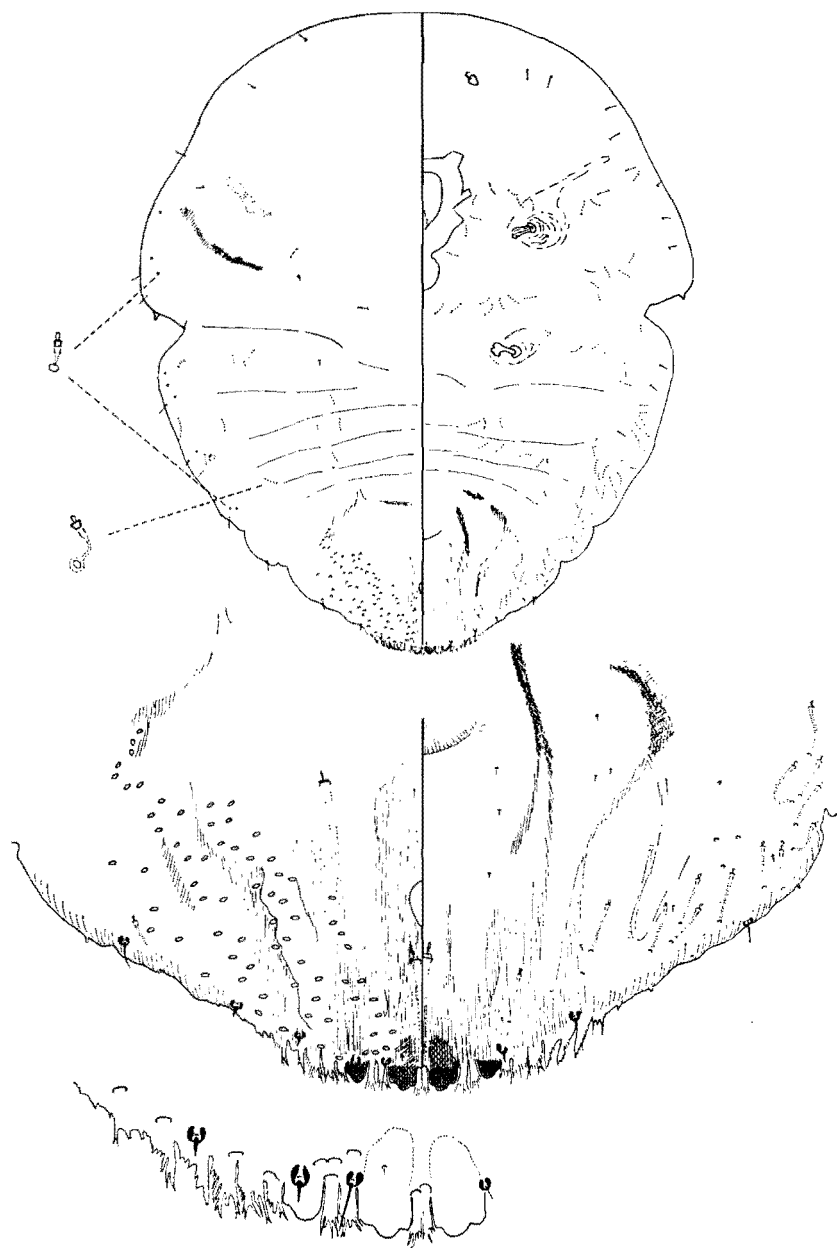


Fig. 3. *Selenaspidus quadrilobus* spec. nov.

and third are broadest. Dorsal pygidial ducts numerous, 53-73 on each side and extending as far forward as the laterobasal apophysis. Two marginodorsal macroducts always present between median lobes. An irregular row of minute dorsal submarginal ducts extends forward from abdominal segment (ii) to the cephalic area. On dorsum of prepygidial segments a few microducts are present, but on venter these are quite numerous along the submarginal area of segments anterior to the sixth; along the margin of the prepygidial segments some of these microducts are slightly longer and broader. Anal opening turbinate, longer than the median lobes, situated at about the apical third of the pygidium. Perivulvar pores absent; paravulvar scleroses well developed; vulva situated at about the basal third of the pygidium.

**MATERIAL EXAMINED.** Cedarberg mountains: Uitkyk Pass (Clanwilliam Distr., C.P.), 12.v.1962 on *Serruria* sp. (Proteaceae), J. Munting. Described from adult female holotype (H.C.1126/8) and 10 adult ♀-paratypes.

One paratype will be deposited in the United States National Museum, Washington; the holotype and paratypes in the National Collection of Insects, Pretoria.

**NOTES.** Although this species differs from all others in *Selenaspidus* by the absence of the third pair of lobes, the other characters it possesses indicate that it belongs to the subtribe *Selenaspidina*. The erection of a monotypical genus for this interesting species is not justified at present though the discovery of similar forms in the future may lead to its removal from *Selenaspidus*.

#### *Selenaspidus rubidus* McKenzie

This species was originally described from California on *Euphorbia* and has also been recorded from Singapore and Germany. However, since all the other species of *Selenaspidus* are known from Africa and adjacent territories, it is very probable that this species is also of African origin.

**MATERIAL EXAMINED.** South Africa: Gydo Pass (Cape Prov.), 10.v.1962, on *Protea repens* L. (Proteaceae), D. P. Annecke (H.C. 1408).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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#### REFERENCE

MAMET, J. R. 1958. The *Selenaspidus* Complex (Homoptera: Coccoidea). *Annls Mus. r. Congo belge sér 4to-4*: 359-431.

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